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The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1881)

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November 1, 1918.

Temperature 6 a.m. 75 2 p.m. 78
Humidity 91 83

November 1, 1917.

Temperature 6 a.m. 73 2 p.m. 78
Humidity 96 80

WEATHER FORECAST
FAIR.
Barometer 29.80

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

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PER ANNUM.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.

TURKEY SIGNS AN ARMISTICE.

ALLIES TO OCCUPY FORTS OF DARDANELLES AND BOSPHORUS.

ALLIES PRISONERS TO BE REPATRIATED.

We have been furnished with the following telegram, dated October 31, received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies by H. E. the Officer Administering the Government:

The following announcement will be made in both Houses of Parliament this afternoon:—

"Some days ago General Townsend was liberated in order to inform the British Admiral in Command in the Aegean that the Government of Turkey ask that negotiations should be opened immediately for an armistice between Turkey and the Allies. A reply was sent that if the Government of Turkey sent a fully accredited plenipotentiary Vice-Admiral Oathorp was empowered to inform him of the conditions upon which the Allies would agree to a cessation of hostilities and to sign an armistice on these conditions and on their behalf. The Turkish plenipotentiary arrived at Mudros early this week and an armistice was signed by Admiral Oathorp on behalf of the Allied Governments last night and came into operation at noon to-day. It is not possible as yet to publish the full terms of the armistice, but they include the free passage for the Allied fleets through the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, the occupation of the forts on the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus necessary to secure their passage and the immediate repatriation of Allied prisoners of war."

[Reuter's Telegrams.]

ON THE ITALIAN FRONT.

Three-Quarters of Italian Army Engaged.

London, October 30.
An Italian official message says:—Between the Breno and the three-quarters of the Italian Army are engaged in conjunction with the Fourteenth British Army Corps, a French Division and an American Infantry Regiment.

The enemy eastward of the Piave is yielding under the formidable pressure. We gained advantages yesterday in the region of Pernice and Col Dalloro. Our operations astride the Piave resulted in the capture of Segusino and Mount Ossen. We reached the southern outskirts of Qiero.

Our Eighth Army reached Vittorio and is now fighting northward of Conegliano.

The Third Army crossed the Piave at San Don di Piave and eastward of Zeoson.

The total prisoners captured number 33,000 with several hundreds of guns.

Austrians to Evacuate Italian Territory.

London, October 31.
An Austro-Hungarian official message says:—On the Venetian Plain the English and Italians thrust further forward and appreciably extended the places at which they have broken through northward and southward of Montello.

Taking into account the resolve, oft-expressed, to conclude an armistice and a peace ending the struggle of the nations, our troops fighting on Italian soil will evacuate the occupied region.

Austrians from Western Front.

London, October 30.
The Austrians have withdrawn three Divisions from the Western Front to oppose the Anglo-Italians, who have crossed the Piave on a front of over thirty miles. We have reached the outskirts of Oderzo and are advancing across Montebelluno towards Livorno River.

THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN.

Nearly Half of Montenegro Reclaimed.

London, October 30.
The latest news shows that the Serbians in Northern Serbia are now forty miles from the Danube, while another force of Serbians is near the Bosnian frontier.

Nearly half of Montenegro has been reclaimed.

Italian Success in Albania.

London, October 30.
An Italian official message states:—In Albania we occupied San Giovanni di Medua and are advancing towards Scutari.

Austrians Admit Retreat.

London, October 31.
An Austro-Hungarian official message states:—The eastern wing of our forces operating in Serbia has already crossed to the northern bank of the Danube. The rearward march on the Sava and the Drina continues, the enemy nowhere following.

A General Rising in Montenegro.

Amsterdam, October 30.
A message from Cetinje says a general rising has broken out in Montenegro. The Austro-Hungarians are hastily evacuating and insurgents hold Scutari.

Interesting developments are foreshadowed, as the enemy forces are being driven back upon Scutari by the Italians from the south.

The Allies' Onrush.

London, October 30.
A French Eastern communique states:—Serbian cavalry has reached the Danube east of Semendria and occupied Pojarevats, the enemy retreating in headlong flight. We have reached the front Milanova, Topola and Palanka, and are forty-five miles from Belgrade.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

PEACE DEVELOPMENTS.

ANOTHER GERMAN NOTE TO AMERICA.

POSSIBLE SEPARATE AUSTRIAN PEACE WITH ITALY.

London, October 30.
Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says the censorship on newspapers in Austria has been abolished.

Hungary and Austria Separated.

Amsterdam, October 31.
The *Weser Zeitung* prints a message from Budapest saying that Count Karolyi and Count Andrássy have reached an understanding under which Count Andrássy will be joint Foreign Minister temporarily with Count Karolyi, thereafter becoming Hungarian Foreign Minister, thus completing the separation of Hungary and Austria.

Ludendorff's Resignation Explained.

London, October 30.
General Ludendorff's resignation has hitherto been explained as chiefly due to the failure of his military plans, but later advice strongly intimates that he endeavoured to overthrow the new Government and establish virtually a Military Dictatorship. The Government proved stronger and Ludendorff was forced to resign. The incident illustrates future possibilities if the Government weakens.

A New Note from Germany.

Amsterdam, October 30.
A message from Berlin says Germany has despatched a Supplementary Note to President Wilson, explaining the Constitutional changes in Germany.

Later.

Reuter's correspondent at Washington says the Supplementary German Note has been delivered. It is stated that it makes no change in the situation.

The next step is expected to be announced in all the associated capitals to the belligerents, giving the armistice terms.

Austria's Latest Move.

London, October 30.
A Note by Count Andrássy concludes by emphasizing that peace is more than ever desired to-day by the Monarchy and all races of Austria and Hungary, reiterating the request for an immediate armistice on all fronts and the initiation of peace negotiations in the interests of humanity and all races of Austria-Hungary.

Later.

It appears that Count Andrássy's dramatic new Note was telegraphed direct to Mr. Lansing, personally, beseeching him "to use your influence with the President." Count Andrássy is further credited with the intention of opening separate negotiations with Italy.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

POST-WAR CURRENCY.

London, Oct. 30.
The report of the committee of financial experts, including Dominion representatives, appointed by the Treasury to consider post-war currency, recommends the earliest establishment of a sinking fund from the revenue to increase the gold reserve to a hundred fifty millions. It is of opinion that the early resumption of the internal circulation of gold after the war is undesirable.

A PETROGRAD PANIC.

Stockholm, Oct. 30.
A message from Petrograd states: The Bolshevik leader M. Ginzovitch in a fiery speech urged the workmen to celebrate the anniversary of the revolution on Nov. 10 by exterminating the remains of the Bourgeoisie. The speech is regarded as an incitement to massacre and has caused a panic in Petrograd.

TURKEY AND PEACE.

Amsterdam, Oct. 30.
The Turkish press is disposed to credit the current report that Turkey is negotiating with the Entente. The public favours opening the Straits and permitting the entrance of the Fleet for the purpose of landing a detachment to supervise demobilisation.

THE ARMISTICE DEMANDS.

Paris, Oct. 30.
An important Allied Naval Conference is being held presumably for formulating the armistice demands. Sir Eric Geddes and Admiral Wemyss are included in the British representation.

RESTRICTIONS ON WOMEN TRAVELLING.

London, Oct. 30.
In the House of Commons Dr. Macnamara stated that the prohibition of British women travelling by sea would be reviewed as soon as it was certain that merchantmen were immune from enemy attack.

WEAVERS' DEMANDS.

London, Oct. 31.
Two hundred thousand weavers have applied for fifty per cent. advance in wages and at least sixty-five per cent. full-time pay for short-time work.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, Oct. 31.
The silver market is quiet.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

Successful British Raid.

London, Oct. 30.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig states: We successfully raided north-eastward of Englefontaine, imprisoning seventy and repulsed an attempted attack northward of Namur.

British Aerial Raids.

London, Oct. 30.
The Press Bureau states: The Independent Air Force on Monday heavily attacked Morhange aerodrome. Eighteen hits were observed from which a fire resulted. We shot down an enemy aeroplane in flames. We also bombed Frescaty aerodrome, attacked Badischer Soda Factory, also railways at Treves and Saarbrücken, rail-junctions at Longuyon, Ecourtz and Thionville with excellent results. A total of ten tons was dropped. No British are missing. We attacked to-day the railway junction at Longuyon and the aerodrome at Jambes with good results. Three British machines have not been located.

German rail traffic through Dutch Limburg has been discontinued.

Fall of Guise Expected.

London, Oct. 30.
Reuter's correspondent at French Headquarters, writing on Tuesday afternoon, says: The battle is raging on the outskirts of Guise, the fall of which is expected soon. A French communique states: North of Guise we progressed on the north bank of the Oise and captured Beaufort Farm, west of Les Quellies. On the right of the Peron we re-advanced east of Monceau-le-Neuf.

THE ITALIAN OFFENSIVE.

Enemy Forces Hard Pressed.

London, Oct. 30.
An Italian communique states: Our Eighth and Twelfth Armies attacked the enemy frontally, while the Tenth Army threatened his flank. The enemy abandoned his positions on the heights of the left bank of the Piave and is retreating, being hard pressed. We liberated numerous villages. Our parties closely followed up the enemy who blew up bridges on the Montebelluno. We entered Conegliano. Northward on the right of the Piave we co-operated with troops on the left bank and passed, after a lively and brilliant struggle, beyond Caldino Torrent. Bitter fighting continues in the region of the Grappa. We prisoners thousands and captured over 150 guns, of which many are already in action against the enemy.

King Emmanuel Cheered by Austrians.

London, Oct. 30.
Reuter's correspondent on the Italian front says: King Emmanuel has crossed the Piave and received an ovation from Austrian prisoners.

A British Italian official message says: The Tenth Army since the commencement of the operations has taken prisoner eleven thousand, of whom the Fourteenth British Corps captured 6,178 and numbers of guns and material not enumerated. The Montello group of Armies has made a magnificent advance and prisoners many.

THE KAISER'S POWER.

London, Oct. 30.
In the House of Commons, replying to a question, Lord Robert Cecil stated there was no evidence that the power of the German Bundesrat was in any way modified. The German Secretaries of State were appointed by the Kaiser and they were presumably liable to dismissal by the Emperor, therefore presumably the so-called German War Cabinet did not correspond constitutionally to the Allied War Cabinet.

THROUGH GERMAN EYES.

Advising Japan.

Of late the German Press has been devoting its attention to the Allies in turn. The attention paid to Japan is exemplified afresh in a long leading article in the *Cologne Gazette* called "The Anglo-Saxon Encirclement of Japan." It is argued, in the familiar way, but in the inimitable language of Cologne, that Great Britain and the United States are plotting to employ Japan and then to turn against her, whilst on the other hand Japan is represented as pursuing purely selfish interests and as being much too clever to be deceived by her Allies. It is not obscurely suggested that Japan, while pursuing her selfish course, "has already looked round for friends"—the obvious friend being, of course, Germany.

The article begins by saying that Japan has hitherto played only the part of a protector, acquiring wealth, accumulating ships, and "considerably strengthening her domination over the Pacific at the cost of the Americans." The writer proceeds:—"Japan did not for herself involve in any further deeds or adventures of war, although her Allies often enough went on their merry way to what they have been

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Harrison's Circus at Kowloon, 9 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.

Constable's Smart Capture.

In Lookitbrook road, Bath, recently, Constable Barbridge challenged a young man of military age and bearing and asked him to produce his papers. The man replied in broken English, and on being arrested proved to be a German prisoner who had escaped from an internment camp at Laverton.

admitted. But at heart they know only too well the value of the love for them. Japanese diplomacy is famous for its ability to hide its ideas behind a friendly grin.

The *Cologne Gazette* then enlarges upon the supposed racial animosities of "the Anglo-Saxons," and proceeds to dilate upon the ridiculous story of an Anglo-American secret treaty against Japan:—

"The idea is in the main as follows:—England and America hope that, after paralyzing Germany, they will be strong enough together to hold down Japan and to exploit China economically and politically. The existence of the secret treaty is confirmed by the fact that, as we know from the best source (sic), high English officials have for a long time past not shrunk from winning the favour of the Chinese Government by saying:—'During the war you must adopt a calm attitude towards Japan; and when we have won we shall keep Japan down.'"

Poor Australia!

The German Press is also devoting separate attention to Australia. A leading article in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, which is so fond of posing as an organ of moderation and peace, solemnly argues that it is the object of the British Government to have as many Australians killed as possible, and that Mr. Hughes's speeches can only be explained by the fact that the only friends he has left are "the lords in London," to whom he has sold himself body and soul. The "pacifist" organ writes:—

"For four years past the Australians have been more frequently mentioned in the English Army reports than any other group. Even if it were true that they are among the best British troops, one must yet ask why that cold and ruthless calculator Lloyd George employs the Australian Corps again and again at the points at which one must count upon the most murderous losses. Why does Lloyd George like best to march over Australian corpses? The answer is obvious. The Australians whom he sacrifices come from a country which, not only geographically, is the most remote from the English. Doubtless, moreover, he wants to punish the Australians, because they alone produce voluntary victims, and refuse to deprive their country still further of the able-bodied workmen and soldiers whom they most urgently need to fight against an enemy who is their real enemy—the Japanese. How could the Australians fail to see that the Japanese threaten the territorial integrity of their continent, more than we do? Moreover, the London statesman could hardly be blamed for protecting themselves against further interference in their plans and aims by Australian influence, as seems already to be the case to a considerable extent."

It will be seen that the German propagandists take little trouble to harmonize their invectives at the moment the Japanese are the victims of "Anglo-Saxon" aggression.

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GENERAL NEWS.

"Some" Postal System.
A returned Shanghai holiday-maker from Ussu says that out of the 15 copies of the North China Daily News that should have been delivered to him during his stay there he received three, one of which he fished out of the post-office bag himself!

Prince Rupprecht Engaged.
An official telegram from Munich states that the King of Bavaria at a family dinner announced the engagement between the Crown Prince Rupprecht and Princess Antoinette of Luxembourg. Prince Rupprecht, who is the younger son of a group of German armies opposing the British, is 49 years old and a widower. Princess Antoinette, who is not yet 18, is the third of the five sisters of the reigning Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

Actors' Trade Union.
At the Rehearsal Theatre, Maidenhead, recently a well-attended meeting of the members resolved to transform the Actors' Association into a trade union. This is the outcome of a long agitation in the profession as to the future of the association. Mr. Monte Bayley, of the Variety Artists' Federation, said that it had been suggested that trade unionism would adversely affect their acting, but there was no trade union method of acting—(laughter)—any more than there was a trade union way of laying bricks. But the bricklayer had a minimum wage! Acting would not deteriorate because an actor had a fair contract safeguarded by trade protection.

A New Shipyard.
Continuing his work of inspection through the shipbuilding areas of the North-East Coast, Lord Pirrie visited the Eggs Yard. This yard, which work was begun in November last year, is now nearly completed. It covers a site of nearly 16 acres on the banks of a North-East Coast river, and is entirely driven by electricity. It has four berths, each capable of building a ship of 480 feet long by 55 feet beam, and of about 10,000 tons deadweight. On the south is a platform shed 532 feet long by 100 feet broad, which contains all the most up-to-date electrically driven machinery for working the steel material. On the quayside is an electrically driven travelling crane capable of lifting 30 tons at a radius of 54 feet and ten tons at a radius of 93 feet.

Rice and Religion.
The continued advance in the price of rice has caused unrest at Souben-cho, Fushu-gun, Kyoto-fu, Japan. As October 15, was the date of a local festival, it was feared the people might cause trouble, and the police took precautionary measures. During the day parties of young men carrying mikoshi (portable shrines carried at festivals) made demonstrations in front of the rice-shops, dashing the mikoshi against the doors and windows. Before the police arrived on the scene the men fled, throwing the mikoshi into the crowd on the roadside with such force that one man sustained serious injuries to his head and died soon after. The practice of using the mikoshi as a weapon against those with whom the bearers are not on good terms is an old one. The idea is that the god inside the mikoshi is expressing his feelings.

Air Cadets' Welcome to the King.
The King went to a South Coast town recently to see the Royal Air Force Cadet Brigade in training. Prince Albert, who is a captain in command of one of the squadrons, took part in a march past. At the railway station a guard of honour was formed, consisting of men of the band and over, from all parts of the Empire. On the sunny slope of a hill in the rear of the parade ground, the huge khaki flag, with the letters "R. A. F." formed by the wings of the planes, was hoisted. At a given signal they raised their greatcoats, disclosing the red, yellow, and light blue which make up the R. A. F. colours. Simultaneously the band began to march. At a further signal the band played the "R. A. F. March" and the King and Prince Albert, with the other members of the party, walked down the hill to the band. The King then gave the order for the band to play the "R. A. F. March" and the King and Prince Albert, with the other members of the party, walked down the hill to the band.

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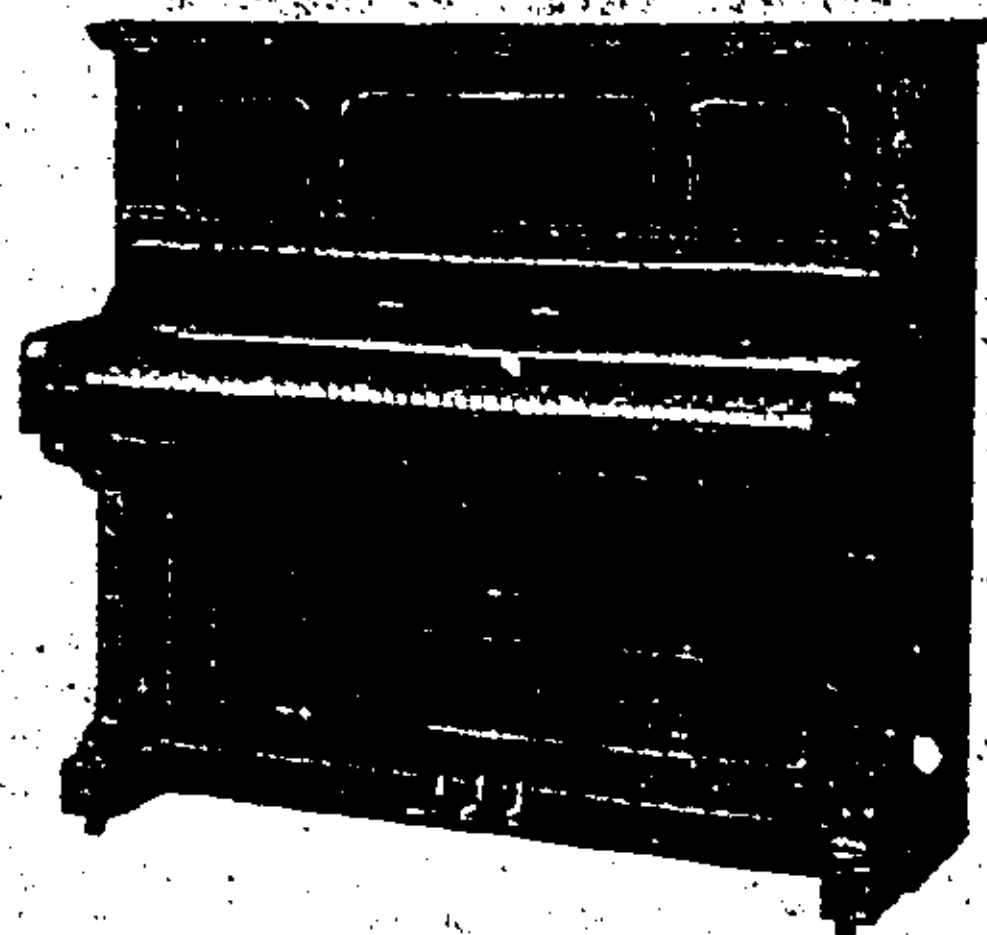
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RAILWAY.

(British Section).

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p.m. and 6.15 p.m.

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The new service of trains will
come into force on November
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Time Tables.By Order,
H. P. WINSLOW,
Manager.
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Office address: 11, Ice House St.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

THE NEW AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The present condition of the Dual Monarchy has not taken us by surprise, for the events of the last few months have all been pointing to such a state of affairs. We have watched with interest the gradual disintegration of the whole national fabric, but events have happened so rapidly lately that it is becoming very difficult to follow them with any amount of understanding. The position of Austria-Hungary has always been a difficult one, for it is no small matter to hold together under one rule a nation composed of many widely different peoples, with different ideals, different languages, and in some cases even in open enmity with one another. The failure of a scheme of things such as this was only a matter of time, and the end is not far off. Internal dissension has obtained in Austria-Hungary for a long time, but the recent resolve of the Czechs and the Croats to break away has only brought matters to a head. The former of these mean to found a state of their own, and the latter to join the new Great Serbia. Simultaneously we find the German-Austrians demanding independence or inclusion in Germany, Hungary is determined to sever all connection with Austria, and Italy claims her unredeemed territory and portions of the Dalmatian coast.

It is a terrible condition in which the Dual Monarchy finds itself, and nothing can save it. Its Ministers are feverishly attempting to hold the fragments together, and to rally some of the racial parties round the throne, but theirs is a hopeless task. Emperor Karl has at least seen the futility of their efforts, for he has gone to Buda-Pest to escape from a very dangerous situation, and to make sure at least of his position as King of Hungary. It surely can be said of Austria that "it never rains but it pours" for her misfortunes are daily becoming more overwhelming. Added to her political troubles, we find mating and chaos in her armies, starvation among her population, war-weariness and dissension everywhere. On top of this, the Italians are brilliantly throwing back her troops, capturing 30,000 prisoners and 200 guns, and the Montenegrins have again taken up the sword and are driving out the invader, recapturing Scutari and many villages. It is not surprising, then, that the Austrians are asking for an immediate peace, which after all really amounts to a complete surrender, for how can she hope, in the face of all these disasters, to hold out much longer against the victorious Allies? The last few days have seen the virtual break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and peace is its only hope. Already the Czech-Slovaks have proclaimed an independent state at Prague, and the new national council of the Yugo-Slavs is being recognised almost universally. Martial law has been proclaimed in Buda-Pest, and everywhere the population are holding peace demonstrations, and most significant of all, demanding the abolition of the German alliance.

Absolute capitulation can only be a matter of a few days' time, and it will mean a fatal blow for Germany. Deserted by her friends in her hour of distress, she will be left to fight against the whole world. It all points to one great and all-important fact—that peace is not far off, "a consummation devoutly to be wished." Anyhow the Allies are making all preparations for an early peace, and a conference is already sitting at Versailles to draw up the terms on which an armistice can be granted. Both Germany and Austria-Hungary know that these terms will be terribly hard, but they also understand that nothing is to be gained by continuing the struggle. If they do not understand, it is possible that Germany may make one more desperate effort to stem the Allied tide on the West, and the Austrians to weld their rebellious fragments together, but their efforts will be fruitless. Nothing can save the Central Powers—not even peace, for the fate of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is already being decided by its own people, and the Allies can be trusted to decide that of Germany.

A Good Sign.

We are sure that the public generally will welcome the announcement contained in our advertising columns to-day showing that the Constitutional Reform Association has at length decided to clear decks for action, so to speak. On more than one occasion, in touching upon the housing question, we have urged that this is a matter which might well, and in fact should, engage the attention of such an Association as the one named, while just over a week ago we asked who would take the lead in moving for an expression of the Colony's attitude towards the Germans after the war. The Constitutional Reform Association has resolved to call a public meeting to deal with these two specific issues, and it has done wisely in so acting. To mention the latter question first, it is true that a mass meeting held a considerable time ago registered its conviction that the Boche should not be permitted to return to the Colony for a definite period after the conclusion of peace, and that even then, he should only be allowed to trade under the licence system. That, admittedly, is a matter which will not be decided in Hongkong, but it is well that the view previously expressed should be reiterated. What we should like to see, also, would be for the various sporting and social clubs of the Colony to deal now with the matter of membership of enemy subjects, just as the Singapore Cricket Club has done.

The Housing Question.

As to the housing problem, the proposed meeting will not hesitate, we feel sure, to express the opinion that this is a question which loudly calls for action. We have again and again shown how impossible it is for Europeans to secure reasonable accommodation on the island. Indeed, in many instances none at all can be found excepting in hotels and boarding houses. That is a distinctly bad state of affairs, and one that never should have come to pass. There have been various suggestions advanced from time to time for a solution of the problem, and while many of these are deserving of the fullest consideration, we have always held to the view that the first step needed is for the whole matter to be investigated by a Commission. A resolution to that effect is to be proposed at the forthcoming meeting, and we can only hope that if the Government accedes to the request, the whole question will be fearlessly probed into, and that among the other points investigated will be that of good building sites being allowed to remain undeveloped year after year so that the owners may benefit from the rise in the value of the property. The last week's meeting held in Hongkong showed clearly that public opinion here is not dormant; that it merely awaits the opportunity to express itself. We feel sure, therefore, in view of the importance of the two issues which this other meeting is being called to consider, that the attendance will be large.

The Parish.

Germany is now absolutely friendless. She never had many friends, not even before the war, but those she had have gradually given her the cold shoulder, until the last of them, Austria, has thrown her over. Everywhere in Austria now, the Germans are hated, and the Austrians are cursing the day that they ever lent an ear to the schemes of their neighbours, or stretched out to them the hand of friendship. Germany never possessed the faculty for making friends, and she realises now her great mistake. We find *Vorwarts* lamenting this fact, when it complains that it was their own fault that America entered the lists against them, and states that "Germany's greatest defect is that she did not understand how to gain friends for a time of need." Her time of need is now at hand, and she stands alone—a pariah among the nations of the world. How could the Germans ever hope to make friends? They have nothing in their nature to attract and much to repel: selfishness, unscrupulousness, brutality—they can never have friends, for in the centuries to come, nothing can ever wash out the infamous stain which four years of war has imparted to their name.

DAY BY DAY.

WE WHO IN TOO SECURE IN TIME OF PEACE WILL OFTEN BE FOUND TOO MUCH DEFECTED AND FEARFUL IN TIME OF WAR.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the second anniversary of the German evacuation of Fort Vaux (Verdon).

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 3. 15/16d.

No Disease.
There were no cases of communicable disease notified yesterday.

Raffle Result.
The leather suit case raffled for "Our Day" by Miss Betty Eustace realised \$100 and was won by Ticket No. 29.

Match Postponed.
The Second Division match, St. Joseph's College versus 83rd Co. R.G.A., which has been fixed for to-morrow, has been postponed, as the Collegians are unable to play.

Harmston's Circus.
This popular Circus will shortly close a most successful season at Kowloon, and to-morrow the last matinee will be given, when a special programme will be submitted for the delight of the children. The present programme is in every way stronger and better even than the first, and do one should miss seeing it. A visit to the huge marquee will mean an evening of unalloyed delight and pleasure.

Armed Robbery.
Wong Shun, 21 years old, employed at the Hip Yik Nat Oil shop at Kung Ohn Kong village, Kwai-sim, in Chinese territory, reports that at about 5 p.m. on October 29, six men entered the shop under the pretence of buying oil, produced revolvers, tied up the folk and stole \$72 in Chinese money. They then took the master of the shop, aged 62, and went away. Two of them were subsequently arrested in British territory.

The Peak Tramway Alterations.
We are asked to state, in connection with the work of re-laying a portion of the Peak Tramway track, that it is anticipated that it will be necessary to close the two termini, Plantation Road and Kennedy Road Stations, and the lower terminus, and bring into use the temporary terminal stations about the end of November. The actual date cannot as yet be given, but an advertisement will be put in all the local papers as soon as it is known.

Back too Soon.
"I came back to Hongkong by the Fatshan, intending to take a steamer to go to Siam to see my mother who is a Siamese woman." Such was the defence put up by Mak Chin when charged on the Police Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, with returning from banishment, he having been banished on October 22, 1918, for ten years. A Chinese constable deposed that he was on duty at 2.15 a.m. when he saw the defendant coming along. He searched him and found some money on him. On being questioned, defendant confessed that he was a banished man. His Worship sentenced defendant to twelve months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

Alleged Snatchings.
A Chinese was charged at the Police Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, with snatching \$1 from another Chinese. Sergeant Blackman prosecuted. The complainant deposed that he was walking along Connaught Road Central when the defendant came and snatched \$1 from his pocket. He gave chase and an Indian sergeant arrested defendant. The Indian sergeant deposed that when he arrested the man he asked the complainant what he had lost and he said \$1. Witness then questioned defendant as to the whereabouts of the note. On being searched it was found concealed under defendant's jacket. The defendant, in giving evidence, said he lived in No. 9, Shelley Street. He was in Connaught Road yesterday when somebody dropped a \$1 note. He picked it up and the complainant asked for it. He refused to give it to the complainant and a man came up and said that he was the man who stole it. His Worship remanded the case until to-morrow at 10 a.m. so as to enable the defendant to bring his parents to Court.

ROBBIE'S LETTERS: IX.

To His Nephew in France.

Hongkong, 30th Oct. 1918.
Dear Alick,
We are a bit nearer to Berlin in miles and language than we were this time last week. I see by the *Reichstag* reports that Willie's rehearsing the "Hush-a-bra baby" act at the minute but just when he "and his cradle and all" will tumble in yet to be filmed. I can only hope that one quarter of the things that have been said of late in the *Reichstag* will ever come true, for local colour is what always makes a his seem truthful. I've also noticed that when the war went well, the *Reichstag* wasn't of much consequence—just an organisation that voted money and did what it had to. But when the tide turned it always became the mouthpiece of the German people. *Reichstag* talk is never decisive but it's interesting, for the Germans hate the Prussians, though mind you, always willing to share the swag if they had won the war. Maybe I'm an ultra-panmist but one of the first lessons the busy bee teaches is not to go too near the hive.....

I see from the papers that this Spanish influenza is trying to beat Jules Verne's voyage round the world. Caspetown's had it bad and it's even got the length of the Malay States now. They say that a straw shows how the wind blows but I've been seriously wondering if the Sanitary Department here have sufficiently recovered from their attack of stomies to sit up and notice this small cloud already on the horizon and to make due preparation to cope with it when it does come along. For come along it undoubtedly will, as sure as there are ships on the sea to bring it. I suppose there will be some means of prevention, but just what that will be we'll not know until it's too late or until we have to send for serum from America, same as was done in the case of the spotted fever. I don't know, mind you, that there's any connection between the two diseases but Lt. Olitary's report should come in handy when we get the next epidemic, no matter what the breed of the germ is. It was a carefully prepared document. I read it over very carefully, skipping the big words, of course, and I've come to the conclusion, as a result, that one of the best places to go to here, when the next visitation comes along, is Victoria Gaol, for compared to most places, it is a healthy area, and Canton was a good second. But Ki met, my lad, fill then and may be after, unless the Government takes a hand quick in the game. Spanish influenza might be, but it never came from that country I'll bet. It's too quick on the jump and no enough of the manys about it to be the putty-dyed-in-the-wool Spanish.

Willie Harmston's Circus rolled up last week and settled down on the Kowloon side not far from the Post Office. Macpherson was as excited as a wean and kept blowing all week about taking his wee Willie to see the wild beasts, so of course Janet gets on to me and what for no couldn't Janet go and see the circus as well as they Macpherson?—the upstart. And what for not says I, and away we went. It makes no difference even if ye have arrived at the year's discretion and stink through life with a face like a wooden god, there's none of us too grown up to forget the circus going or the swimming-pool days. It was a good show and Janet liked it fine from the peanut right down to the lions, and so did I and no ashamed to admit it. Mac, I saw saw members of the Legislative Council there, which I take to be a good sign, for a man that's human enough to go and see the circus shows promise of being a likely person to get down to such common things as good and cheap houses and modern sanitation.

"Our Day" has come and gone once more and all that remains is the memory and the raffle tickets in our pockets. It was a fine success and well organized, without a doubt. The do-in

VICTORIA THEATRE.

Another Excellent Programme.

Those who attended the Victoria Theatre last night thoroughly enjoyed the attractive and varied programme submitted. Much interest naturally centred in the final episodes of "The Hidden Hand," which has been followed with such deep interest throughout, and the denouement is certainly not altogether what the majority had been led to expect. Of course, all ends up happily, but we will not say more: the final parts should be seen to be appreciated. A film which is attractive because of its beautiful Egyptian setting is "Cupid v. Women's Rights," and in which, of course, there is a strong love interest. Besides the British and American Gassettes, the programme includes "Max in a Taxi," a two-part picture which is crammed full of fun. It is good to see the inimitable Max once again, and this can certainly be described as one of the best of the films which he has produced. To-night, and to-morrow the same programme will be given, except that an additional attraction will be the appearance of the talented mimics Leo Aldo-Fini, whose performances are marked by distinct skill and cleverness. There should be full houses during the week-end.

BEST FOR MOTHERS.

How many babies wake up just about the mother's bed-time and keep her busy for a good part of the night. The mother may not see anything apparently the matter with the child, but she may depend upon it that when baby is cross and sleepless there is something wrong, and the little one is taking the only means he has of telling it.

Under such circumstances Baby's Own Tablets are just the friend needed. They contain no opiates, but send baby to sleep simply because they remove the cause of his sleeplessness and make him feel well and comfortable. They are recommended for teething troubles, constipation, diarrhoea, colic, fever, indigestion and worms; they promote appetite and regular development.

Sold by chemists, or by mail at 60 cents the vial, from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 98 Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

The Botanical Gardens was grand—a veritable fairyland, the news papers called it, if I mind right—and considering the terrible hard job the Electric Company have to keep things going these days, the men at the engines must have been sitting on the safety valve most part of the evening. How they managed it beats me, for it nearly needs a special ordinance nowadays to get an extra dynamo on or a transparency with three extra globes in it over the shop window. The fireworks were fine and we Jean had the time of her life and it brought me in mind of the fireworks at home on the said Queen's birthday.

FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

Interesting Report from America.

The Bulletin of the China Club of Seattle contains the following—

Chinese Tariff Revision.—An International Commission for revision of the Chinese Tariff has been sitting since January 6, 1918, first at Shanghai and later at Peking. China's claim for a higher tariff rate is justified by the advancing values of merchandise. In practical operation a ton of goods formerly valued at \$100.00 and now worth say \$200.00 has been continuing to pay \$5 revenue, the same as before. An actual 5 per cent. rate on imports and exports is now authorised whereby the Government will realise 43 per cent. more revenue than before. The advance is equitable and is legitimately necessary.

The New U.S. Loan to China.—The re-entrance of the U.S. into the Consortium of Nations for extending financial credit to China is an event of international significance. In 1913 America was one of six Powers negotiating for a joint Reorganisation Loan, President Wilson withdrew American support, fearing interference with Chinese affairs. Changed conditions now make American participation obviously desirable. If the Powers guarantee payment of the loans they will ask a voice in the way the money is spent. It will not be dispatched through unwise and wasteful channels. A temporary Allied Commission to assist in the administration of Chinese financial affairs will logically follow. This will work for American commerce, for the general well-being of China, now dependant financially on a single Power, for the quelling of internal disorders and for effective participation in the war. This *Bulletin* predicts that with friendly American inspiration such a Commission will prove the most significant forward movement since the Revolution.

Professor Caroline E. Farness of Vassar College was the guest of the China Club, August 29th. Professor Farness goes to China and Japan as representative of the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense. The Club also had the pleasure of meeting R. V. Watts O. Pye, of the American Board, who is returning to Shensi, who also addressed the Club.

Knowledge of the Chinese language by business men is being called for. The demand is so loud it cannot be longer ignored. Consul General Sammons says business men should know the language so they may get closer to the people, just as the missionaries do. "The missionary masters the language and the local customs, and a considerable proportion of American business men now should be prepared to do likewise." Sir John Jordan, British Minister, in an address to the North China Language School, says: "until recent times a knowledge of Chinese was confined to the Consular services and the missionaries. The merchant now finds it as necessary to know Chinese as the missionary. Young men now realise that a knowledge of the language is a valuable asset which will become more valuable as time goes on!! The Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai says: 'If we Chinese merchants were to go to England to establish a concern without the knowledge of the English language and engage some of your countrymen as compradors and shroffs, is it likely that the business would be prosperous?'"

Captain Robert Diller, who is a member of the China Club, has presented to the Club a copy of the extremely interesting *Memoirs of his life*. The *Asia Journal*, October 15, says 75 to 90 per cent. of foreign rice arrives at Seattle although owned by San Francisco exporters. The *Far Eastern Review*, August 25, the realisation of the China Club of April 1918, June 22, in the presence of the Club.

OUR MANILA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Manila, P.I., Oct. 28.—The sensation of the past week in Manila has been the investigation held by a committee of the Philippine Senate into certain recently organized concerns which have been capitalised at large figures for the purpose of engaging in the coconut oil business. The purpose of the investigation, the Senate leaders stated, was to gather data for enacting a law to prevent high financing of large corporations at the expense of the producers and the general public. The Committee hearings had been in progress but one day, when it became apparent that the principal target for the inquiry, was Mr. Carl W. Hamilton, a New York capitalist, who has been instrumental in financing several concerns in Manila during the past three months. These are the Philippines Oil Refining Company and the Bival Oil Refining Company, the combined capital of which is 8,000,000 pesos. In the case of the first company, Mr. Hamilton testified that the start of the corporation was his purchase of an oil plant for 1,300,000 pesos, for which he paid 400,000 in cash, giving his promissory note for the balance. This plant was re-valued at 2,000,000 pesos and sold to the newly organized Philippine Refining Company, of which Mr. Hamilton and Edward Chesley, a local coconut oil plant promoter, were the principal shareholders. The other shareholders, among whom is General Emilio Aguinaldo, ex-President of the short-lived Philippine Republic, received 100 peso shares as gifts. It was the principal aim of the investigation to show that the larger part of the capital of the companies was fictitious and also that the connection of Gen. Aguinaldo with the enterprises, with one of which he is associated as Vice-President, is to use the prestige of his name for exploiting the stocks of the corporations in the United States, since he is one of the most widely known Filipinos. Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Senate, who has been taking a leading part in the investigations, delivered a speech at the hearing to-day in which he attacked in vigorous style the employment of such business methods in the Philippines, branding them as the worst form of exploitation, and criticised Gen. Aguinaldo for allowing himself to become a party to such a scheme, pointing out that Aguinaldo has no ability as a coconut oil factory manager, the only possible value he could be to any such concern being the prestige which his name might give. Mr. Hamilton, who since his arrival in the Philippines has donated liberally to various philanthropic and charitable causes, principal among which was the donation of the use of a site for the National Guard cantonment near Manila at which the Philippine Division of troops for the U.S. Army will be trained, is leaving for New York on the Ecuador. In an announcement given out several weeks ago with regard to his new companies, he outlined in a general way plans for the erection of large plants for the manufacture of coconut oil and "ocoilene" a by-product. Mr. Hamilton is also interested in the Visayan Refining Company, one of the large oil concerns of the islands which has done a large business since the starting of the coconut oil boom.

There have important Red Cross activities in Manila during the past week, principal of which was the organisation of a hospital unit in charge of Dr. H. D. Kneeder for service in Siberia, in response to a call from Dr. Tomler, head of the American Red Cross forces at Vladivostok. The Philippine Chapter of the Red Cross will finance the equipment of the unit, and a number of American nurses and doctors have already volunteered. One automobile has been purchased and the local Eika Lodge has undertaken the financing of a regulation ambulance. Dr. Kneeder expects to have his unit ready to leave for Siberia some time during the coming week. It will be fully equipped with supplies and instruments.

HALLOW-EVEN DANCE.

Enjoyable Function at Hongkong Hotel.

Through the good offices of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Taggart and the Hongkong Hotel Company, one of the most enjoyable dances ever held in the Colony took place last night (Hallow-Een) in aid of the local Chapter of the American Red Cross. The function took place in the dining hall of the Hongkong Hotel, which was beautifully decorated with flags and bunting and further adorned by coloured electric lights, the whole scheme being most effective. There was a crowded attendance of guests, including the American Consul General (Mr. George M. Anderson) and a thoroughly representative gathering from the American and British communities. There were twelve dances on the programme, but these were extended by several "extras" and all present spent a truly delightful time. Apart from the enjoyment of good dancing to admirable music rendered by the Hotel orchestra, the event emphasised the cordiality existing between Britishers and Americans in the Colony. The Hotel Company very kindly provided the refreshments, while all the other expenses were generously borne by Mr. and Mrs. Taggart, with the result that a very handsome sum should be secured, as some three hundred tickets (\$5 each) were disposed of. The programme of dances was as follows:—

LICENSING BOARD.

Two Candidates for Vacancy. The vacancy on the Licensing Board, caused by the resignation of Mr. E. Shellim, will result in a contested election, as there are two candidates in the field. They are:—

Mr. A. B. Lowe, proposed by Mr. A. Forbes and seconded by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson; and

Mr. A. Davies, proposed by Mr. T. F. Hoogh and seconded by Mr. J. Macdonald.

The election, which is confined to Justices of the Peace, will take place on Monday next at the offices of the Registrar of the Supreme Court between the hours of 4 and 5.30 p.m.

A Larceny Case. In the case at the Police Court yesterday in which J. W. Washington was charged with the larceny of money, Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for the complainant, not the defendant.

Arrangements were also made this week for a big membership campaign for the Red Cross to be held during Christmas week, with the object of securing a quarter million new members for the Society, which will yield an annual income of 350,000 pesos to the Philippine Chapter, the work of which is constantly growing as the result of war demands.

Advices have been received from Washington that the Philippine land law, passed at the sessions of the Legislature last year, the terms of which prevent foreigners from acquiring title to land in the islands and confining ownership to Americans and Filipinos, will be rejected by President Wilson since it contravenes Treaties between the United States and England, France, Japan and other countries. The Legislature has cabled that the Act be returned to them for amendment in conformance with these facts.

"OUR DAY."

Result of the Chinese Entertainment.

The Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, hon. secretary of the War Charities Committee, sends us the following letter from the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook covering a contribution of \$36,331.99 from the Chinese Community towards the Funds of "Our Day"—

Sir,—I beg to enclose a cheque for the sum of \$36,331.99, being net proceeds from a series of Theatrical Performances in aid of the above Fund, inaugurated by a Chinese Working Committee under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak and myself.

The Committee desire to place on record their best thanks for the valuable assistance received from various quarters, to which the success of the undertaking was due. Amongst others, they are indebted to:—

1. The following ladies and gentlemen for taking boxes at the Theatre at prices set opposite to their names.

Mrs. Chun Kang-yu	2 boxes	\$800
Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak	1 box	400
Hon. Mr. Ho Fook	1	400
Hon. Mr. Chan Kai-ming	1	400
Lady Ho Tung	1	400
Mr. Yung Tsz-ming	1	400
Mr. Yuen Sui-tung	1	400
Mr. Chun Tung	1	400
Mr. Mok Kon-sang	1	400
Mr. Kwok Siu-lau	1	400
Mr. Lo Shun-wan	1	400
Mr. H. P. White	1	300
Messrs. Benjamin and Potts	1	300
Mrs. Ho Fook	1	300
Mr. Chan Shek-shan	1	300
Mr. Choa Po-sien	1	300
Mr. Wong Kam-fuk	1	300
Mr. Chiu Tin	1	300
Mr. Look Poon-shan	1	300
Mr. H. M. H. Nemaee	1	300
Messrs. Li Po-kwai and Li Yik-miu	1	300
Mr. Lau Sing-ai	1	300
Hon. Mr. Eu Tong-sen	1	300
Messrs. U. Ramjahn and Yuen Hang-kiu	1	300
Mr. Mok Ching-kong	1	300
Messrs. Moxon and Taylor	1	200
Messrs. Wright and Hornby	1	200
Messrs. Logan and Co.	1	200
Messrs. E. Ellis and Co.	1	200
Messrs. Busto and Co.	1	200
Mr. Ho Kom-tong	1	200
Mr. Chau Tung-sang	1	200
Mr. Chan Cheuk-hing	1	200
Mr. Shum Pak-ming	1	200
Messrs. Choy Hing and Choy Cheong	1	200
Messrs. Worcester, Lamport Silva for contributing \$100 to the Fund.		

3. The Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Coy. Ltd. and the China Navigation Coy. Ltd. for carrying three Theatrical Troupes from Canton and back at half fare.

4. The Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd. for supplying electric current free.

5. Messrs. Chun Kang-yu, Ho Kwong and Ying Lan-ting for selling boxes at the Theatre.

6. Mr. Wong Woon-tong otherwise known as Chiu Lai-sung, a famous actor, for taking part in the performances of the Chuk Wan Troupe, free of remuneration, and Messrs. Ho Kom-tong and Choy Wing-nam for inducing him to do so.

7. The proprietor of the Keng Tai-yung Troupe for allowing his troupe to play for two days and two nights free of charge, and the proprietor of the Kwan Fong Yim-yung Troupe for promising to place the services of his Troupe at the disposal of the Committee for two days and two nights free, as soon as the members of the Troupe who have been laid up with influenza are well enough to play.

8. Messrs. Yin Wa for providing electric light fittings at half price.

9. The To Yuen Restaurant for supplying light refreshments and handing over the proceeds (\$488.25) to the Fund.

10. The Standard Oil Co. of New York for supplying ten cases of gasoline free.

11. The Exile Garage for supplying motor cars for conveying the goers from the Theatre at fixed rates, and handing over the receipts (\$213.50) to the Fund.

12. The Chinese newspapers Tsan Wan Po, Wah Tao Po, Chung Ngai Po, Kung Wo Po, Tai Kwong Po, and Kwok Sz Po for free advertisement.

13. Messrs. The Sincere Co., The Sun Co., Wing On Co. and Chan Kwong Co. for supplying silk for decorations.

14. Messrs. Sing Fook Kee for paper scrolls and decorations.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

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CRICKET.

C. R. C. v. Royal Navy. This friendly cricket match will be played to-morrow on the Navy ground and the following will represent the C. R. C.:—Ng Sas K-wong (Capt.), Cheng Chi Yaw Mao Tsun, Harry Chiang, George Lee, James Wong, Wei Lee Sin, A. J. Kew, Wong Po Keung, Sui Yet Man and Uo Hui Fan.

K.C.C. v. Craigswater. For this match on Saturday at Kowloon, at 2.15 p.m., the following have been selected to represent Kowloon:—J. P. Robinson, L. E. S. Hodge, H. H. Taylor, A. de Souza, C. I. Stepleton, D. M. Goodall, F. Wheeler, B. Pectorji, H. Overy and J. H. Mead.

Influenza in Canton. Much sickness is now found among the residents of Canton, says the Canton Times. Dry weather is making the suffering greater. Influenza, pneumonia, and diphtheria are common here at present. In Canton Hospital last week, seven influenza and five pneumonia patients were admitted to. According to physicians, if a patient may be relieved in a few days, but when one gets pneumonia, it is rather dangerous, and both cases are hard to prevent, as they are contagious through the air. Diphtheria has also been discovered here.

15. Messrs. Sz Hop, Wo Hop, Tung Hop and Shun Wo for erecting decorative bamboo stands and scaffolding.

16. The Proprietor of the Tai Ping Theatre for letting the theatre at reduced rates.

17. Messrs. Wing Chun Yuen, Fat Hing Yuen, Tsui Lam Yuen and San Sui Hing for lending flowers for decoration.

18. Messrs. Man In Wing, Hung On and Cheong Lee for lending rattan chairs.

19. The District Watchmen for maintaining order at Theatre.

20. Hon. Mr. Chan Kai-ming and Mr. Li Po-kwai for acting as Hon. Treasurers, and Mr. Ip Lan-chuen as Hon. Secretary.

21. An anonymous subscriber for contributing \$100 to the Fund through the Tung Wa Hospital.

22. And last but not the least, the 262 gentlemen who as members of the Committee, generously subscribed \$60 each. The sum thus subscribed, amounting to \$15,720.00, was one of the chief factors contributing to the success of the undertaking.

A statement of account will follow. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant.

(Signed) HO FOOK.

BUYING A LEGISLATURE.

Remarkable Disclosures. Some extraordinary evidence was given at Johannesburg before the Commission recently appointed to inquire into reports of the alleged bribery of members of public bodies.

One witness named Du Plessis, a translator of the Supreme Court, gave a detailed account of how he was engaged by bookmakers to prevent the passage of the Racing Bill through the Provincial Council. Describing an interview which he had with Mr. van Veyerren, a member of the Provincial Executive, he said:—"Mr. van Veyerren was quite sympathetic and said 'Where do I come in?' We eventually had a long argument, and I drove him home. He wanted \$200 and I knocked him down to \$150."

He said Mr. van Veyerren in banknotes obtained from Linton, a bookmaker. He also saw Linton hand banknotes, how much he did not know, to Dan Dingwall, a member of the Labour Party. The sum of \$2,000 was at the witness's disposal, but he had not to use it all.

At the opening of the proceedings the Commissioner said that he had had information that attempts were being made to intimidate and suborn witnesses. He declared:—

"I shall not hesitate to invoke all the resources of the State in order to secure protection against this sort of thing, and immediate proceedings will be taken upon complaint being made."

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTICE.

"CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG."

A General Meeting of Members of the above Association will be held in the old Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, on Thursday 6th November at 5.30 p.m. to pass Resolutions urging the Government to appoint a Commission to consider the Housing Problem in all its aspects and the transit questions in connection therewith, and the equally important subject of German Trade in this Colony after the War.

In order to take part in this Meeting, Residents interested in these questions are invited to send in written applications for membership of the Association to the Hon. Secretary 11, Beaconsfield Arcade, or to sign applications at the Meeting.

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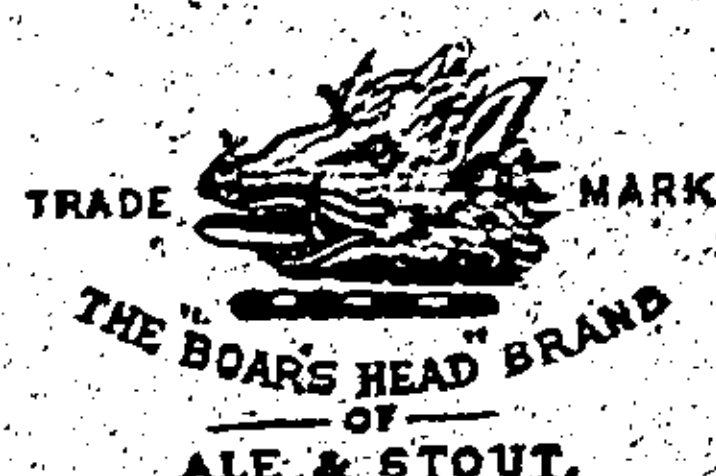
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Telephone No. 141.

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Destination.	Steamer & Displacement.	Sailing Dates.
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	"Kaga Maru" T. 12,301	TUES, 5th Nov., at 11 a.m.
	"Yokohama Maru" T. 12,341	SATUR, 16th Nov., at 11 a.m.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	"Nikko Maru" T. 9,600	SATUR, 14th Dec., at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	"Kosoku Maru" T. 7,000	TUESDAY, 5th Nov.
	"Stensho Maru" T. 7,000	FRIDAY, 15th Nov., at noon.

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YENYO MARU	22,000	23rd Nov.
AMITSU MARU	22,000	18th Dec.

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Steamers.	Tons.	Leave Hongkong.
NIPPON MARU	11,500	8th November.
KIYO MARU	17,200	24th January.

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SHANGHAI	Yingchow	2nd Nov. at 3 p.m.
TSINGTAO & NCHWANG HUPEH	Sinkiang	5th Nov. at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI	Sinkiang	5th Nov. at noon.
TIENHSIN	Kueichow	6th Nov. at noon.
SHANGHAI	Suiyang	7th Nov. at noon.

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Sorakata	Shanghai	7th Nov.	8th Nov.	Batavia
Tjipanas	Tjilatjap	7th Nov.	13th Nov.	Saigon
Biliton	Java & Moji	9th Nov.	13th Nov.	Y. N. K. Kobe
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Steamships.	Captain	Leaving.
Haihong	J. W. Evans	SUN, 3rd Nov. at 1 p.m.
Hailan	A. E. Hodgins	WED, 6th Nov. at 1 p.m.

FOR SWATOW.

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(Projected Sailings from Hongkong.—Subject to Alteration.)

For	Steamship	On
TTSIN via W'wei, C'iao	Chipshing	Tues., 5th Nov. at d'light.
HAIPHONG	Tungshing	Tues., 5th Nov. at 8 a.m.
HAIPHONG	Tatsang	Wed., 6th Nov. at 8 a.m.
SANDAKAN	Mausang	Thurs., 7th Nov. at noon.
SHANGHAI	Wosang	Fri., 8th Nov. at d'light.
MANILA	Yuehsang	Fri., 8th Nov. at 3 p.m.

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SHIPPING NEWS.

German Shipping Bank.

It is reported, says the "Hand-elsblad," that a German bank, called the Shipping Bank, will be established in Rotterdam under the aegis of Herr August Thyssen the German industrial magnate.

Lustitania Salvage.

An "Evening News" writer hears that salvage experts have come to the conclusion that even if successful, an effort to refloat the Lusitania would not be worth the cost, and the proposal has been abandoned. An attempt, however, may be made to recover the specie.

Another Shipping

Amalgamation. The London correspondent of the "Journal of Commerce" writes:—The purchase of coasting companies by liner companies has, by reason of their frequency, lost all novelty. But your readers must not be surprised to hear that another transaction of this character, has been completed. And it will be found that the purchasing company has already carried through one or two other deals of a similar nature.

Germany and Dutch Tonnage.

According to the Dutch Press, German dealers and manufacturers are offering 2s per ton per month for cargo space for a period of four years after the war, all costs for account of the charterer. It is considered unlikely in the Netherlands that the Dutch will make use of this offer, as after the war the Dutch merchant fleet will be needed in the service of its own country. Moreover, the shipowners are under Government supervision, so that they themselves cannot dispose of their own ships.

Ships' Officers and the Army.

Action has been taken following a question in the House of Commons inquiring if a ship's second mate, Robert Griffiths, of 29, Watford Road, Anfield, has been forcibly recruited for the Army, and was doing labour work in the R.E. section of the I.W.T. Mr. Cathcart Watson, who raised the question, has now informed the secretary of the Mercantile Marine Service Association that in view of the present shortage of qualified officers in the Mercantile Marine, Mr. Griffiths' release from the Army has been recommended to the War Office.

Thermit Welding for Work.

"Naval Architect" writes:—"The remarks made in yesterday's paper on the point by your London correspondent are well timed, and I shall look forward with all interest to an expression of opinion from the several classification societies. I have a case in mind where if the Thermit process were to be adopted on a steamer a tremendous saving of time—and time is money—is the essence of the thing—would be effected. But the owners of this particular steamer, owing to the uncertainty present prevailing, are hesitating to make a move in the matter, and the country needs, and badly needs the services of the ship in question, as she represents one of the best types."

Officers' Submarine Courses.

The question having arisen recently of the position of captains and officers—who in view of the recent Admiralty Order making it compulsory for captains and chief officers to undergo a course at a naval depot in connection with the submarine menace—who had been put off pay by their owners when undergoing this course, the Imperial Merchant Service Guild have taken the matter up with the Government, as several cases of hardship have been brought to their notice by members. The Guild have now received a reply stating that "this matter is being investigated with a view to some arrangement being made whereby officers do not suffer in the way mentioned." It is only right to say that the majority of owners are not putting their employees off pay, but as always happens, there is a certain section who do these things, and when there is a large number of officers thrown together at a naval depot comparing notes, the fact that some are so much more favourably dealt with by their owners than others is bound to cause a very bitter feeling. The Guild have put forward the suggestion that having regard to the fact that all shipping is under the Government at the present time, owners should be officially informed that in no case should their captains and officers be put off pay when they have been taken out of their ships to undergo this course, and they are hopeful in view of the letter received that some such steps will be taken in the near future.

COMPANY MEETING.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.

The adjourned thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., was held to-day at noon at the Board Room of Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co. The Hon. Mr. D. Lindale presided there were present Messrs. H. P. White and A. O. Lang. (Director) R. Sutherland (Secretary) Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs. H. Bantonjee (representing Alice A. Tong), H. de O. Longmire, R. M. Austin, E. F. Annett, Lo Cheung Shiu, Neil McIntyre, A. H. M. de Silva, A. M. de Silva, R. E. Remedios, D. Macdonald, N. L. H. Bailton, A. Derby, W. Logan, F. Smyth, S. E. de Luz, Lo Man-hin, J. M. Alvee, C. Bewick, P. O. Potts, A. B. Stewart, S. E. Grimstone, R. E. Macdonald, G. M. Shaw, Ho Kom-tong, A. M. L. Soares, Ho Leung, Ho Wing, S. N. Lee, P. Todd, and Ho Kwong.

The notice convening the meeting having been read.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some days and with your approval I will as customary take them as read.

At the annual general meeting held in May last year my predecessor indicated that an extension of National Shipping Control was anticipated and very shortly after such pronouncement the balance of the Company's sea going fleet which was not already under what is termed "Flat requisition," was brought under the Control Scheme as from 1st June, 1917. Before this date heavy incursions had already been made on our tonnage especially on our larger carriers, which were apparently urgently required to supplement the home going "food carriers." As a result all the vessels of the Calcutta Line were simultaneously commandeered, loaded with food stuffs and despatched for home ports. This following the heavy requisitioning of 3,000 tonners for transport work between Bombay and Bera, and from Indian ports to East Africa, and the Mediterranean, brought about a serious state of affairs and your Directors laid the position fully before the British Government. Representations, with the regard to the extraordinary existing conditions, were made to the Authorities here and in India, and while stress was naturally laid upon the hardship suffered by the Company, the more important point of British steamship lines—having—to—completely abandon to alien flags, trade routes of vital importance, more particularly between ports of the British Dominion, was dealt with in full detail. Briefly, in reply we were informed that while our representations were regarded sympathetically, the urgent call of the Empire in her hour of need made it imperative to disregard for the moment, all questions of individual sacrifice and post war trade conditions. The foregoing briefly sums up the official attitude last year and in the light of subsequent events, one cannot but admit that it was justified.

As regards the future, I may say that in the Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the position of shipping and ship-building industries after the war, which was published in June of this year, it was recognised that the nation had a duty to perform in restoring the mercantile marine.

The Committee recommended the earliest possible removal of Government control and thereafter the payment by the Government of market rates for hire of steamers. Quite recently Mr. Boser Law definitely stated that the Government had no intention of nationalising shipping, we have every reason therefore to hope that our ships will be returned to us with as little delay as possible, and we shall be able to commence repairing and re-equipping our fleet.

The re-establishment of our Calcutta Line is of great importance to this Company. During the war owing to the withdrawal

of our steamers from this line by the Government, the trade which we handled in conjunction with the British India Company has in a great measure been diverted to another route and while the war lasts it is difficult to take any effective steps to protect our interests. When the war is over however, and we get our own steamers back and are again free to charter or build new steamers, which our sound financial position as shown in these accounts, should enable us to do on a considerable scale, I have little fear that we shall be able to reassert ourselves and recover our position.

The Company, in common with others, has unfortunately this year to report losses of ships occasioned by war conditions and you will share my regret at the foundering of the s.s. Onsang near Durban in July 1917 and of the s.s. Kutang torpedoed in the Mediterranean in April this year. Although the Onsang's loss cannot be attributed directly to an act of war, it might well be said the casualty would not have occurred had she been running in Far Eastern waters. In the sinking of both vessels a very serious loss of life resulted and the Company deplores the death of Captain Tough and Captain Alcock, and of their brave officers, engineers and crews who have sacrificed their lives while playing their part in the present great war,—(hear, hear)—and I consider this a fitting opportunity of expressing the deep sympathy of the Company with their sorrowing relatives.

During the year under review the steamers of the West River British s.s. Co. in which the Indo-China s.s. Co., Ltd. held one third share, were disposed of at a satisfactory figure. For some years past this particular branch of our business has been far from satisfactory and it was thought a good opportunity to dispose of our vessels when exceptional prices were offered. I would mention, however, that we still retain the right of participating in the trade at any time we may decide to do so.

The Company's coasting fleet has been supplemented by the addition of the "Kwasing" and "Cheksang," both these vessels were contracted for with the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company on satisfactory terms and they have given complete satisfaction; being modern and up to date ships they should prove a valuable addition to the fleet. As previously mentioned the larger portion of the sea going vessels of the fleet were running during the early months of the year as free ships, during which time freight rates both in the northern and southern trades were at exceedingly remunerative levels, due to the abnormal shortage of tonnage, and the satisfactory showing in the revenue account is largely derived from this source. It is necessary to state however that when the Flat requisitioned steamers were taken up and the remainder of the fleet put under control, the Blue Book rates then paid were out of all proportion to the expenses of running steamers in Far Eastern waters and representations were immediately made to the Government with a view to obtaining amended terms not only in connection with actual rates of charter hire, but also with regard to an arrangement covering the exchange question, all charter hire being paid in sterling. These negotiations, carried on through Mr. C. H. Ross in London were of a most protracted and intricate nature, lasting for the best part of a year; I am pleased to say however, that an agreement was eventually come to whereby the Authorities of the Ministry of Shipping saw the reasonableness of our contentions and a satisfactory agreement under the circumstances was arrived at. The arrangement with regard to additional charter hire and exchange compensation was made retrospective, thereby increasing the anticipated earnings to an appreciable extent.

Turning to the report and statement of accounts, you will notice that no provision has been made to supplement the various reserves, especially repairs, underwriting accounts etc. The reason for this is that we have provided a large amount for contingencies, which it is not at the present time easy to split up and allocate to the

proper accounts, such as exchange fluctuation, general reserve special reports and renewals etc. There is no doubt that a very large amount will be required to repair our steamers when we get them back. As soon as possible after the war is over and the Government Control has been removed, we hope to be in a position to make proposals to shareholders with regard to the disposal of this account, but as so much depends upon future circumstances I am unable to deal further with the question to-day. The General Managers have charged the Company 5 per cent. commission on the charter hire paid by the Government, which is in accordance with their agreement with the Company, but this amount will be claimed from the Government under the terms of the "Heads of Arrangements" under which we are working whereby the Government undertakes to refund all organisation expenses. In the case of the steamers of the Company which the General Managers have undertaken to run on account of the Government a direct arrangement has been made between the Government and Jardine Matheson and Co., Ltd. which does not affect these accounts.

As called for under our Trust Deed \$18,650.00 of first Mortgage Debentures have been redeemed.

You will notice from the satisfactory list of investments shown in the balance sheet that your Directors have invested considerable funds in War Securities and that to 31st December last we had placed in such securities the large sum of \$309,521.30. I would say that as regards this year steps have been taken to benefit as much as possible from the present high rate of exchange by converting silver revenue as it became available into sterling, and the item "Cash in the hands of the General Managers" has been greatly reduced.

In response to various applications from societies for the promotion of Marine Charities the Company contributed during 1917 amounts commensurate with the urgency of each respective call and has also donated \$5,000 to local War Charities. We trust that such payments have your approval.

So far as the exigencies of the present time allow the fleet has been well kept up, but at an enormously increased cost. With regard to steamers running on flat requisition in distant waters every possible effort has been made to maintain the standard of up-keep and in fact, in order to assist matters generally, a Superintendent has been established at Bombay, which port is the headquarters of the majority of our steamers running in Indian waters. There is no disguising the fact, however, that the vessels away from home are being subjected to most excessive wear and tear and although matters have been represented to those responsible, we fear little satisfaction has or will be gained, and without doubt, notwithstanding the compensation which should be payable by the Government, heavy repairs will be necessary when such steamers are released from Government control.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I have much pleasure in putting on record the excellent services rendered by the floating staff, services in many cases, especially on the Bombay/Bera run, carried out under the most trying climatic conditions. Although some members of the staff have had to return to China for health reasons we think the record of the Company's employees in that particular branch of the Transport service, which is so closely linked up with the campaign in Mesopotamia, will bear comparison with any Steamship Company. While it is impossible to ameliorate to any great extent the discomforts with which our employees have to contend, I am pleased to say that everything possible has been done to meet such trying conditions and I think it may be said that every month sees an improvement in affairs. Our floating staff generally although not actually running in the danger zone are performing valuable national work and it is recognised that owing to the shortage of experienced officers many of our senior men are

shouldering an increased burden of work and of responsibility and I think you will agree with me, Gentlemen, that the Company owes a great debt of gratitude to those, who in the present strenuous times, whether running in transport work or under Shipping Control, continue to carry out their duties in such a satisfactory manner. (Applause.)

I think, Gentlemen, I have now touched upon the more important events which have occurred during the year under review and I have pleasure in proposing the following resolution:—"That the Report and Statement of Accounts as presented including the payment of a final dividend of three shillings (3/-) on the Preferred and £2.10/- on the Deferred shares be adopted, that the sum of \$14,894.08 be carried forward to next year's account, and that the dividends be paid at exchange 27.5/10/12."

As soon as this resolution has been seconded I shall be pleased to reply to the best of my ability to any questions which the shareholders may desire to ask.

In seconding Major Macdonald said:—Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the report and statement of accounts which have been so fully dealt with by the Chairman. We have all listened with very great interest to what has been said with regard to the management of the Company throughout the year, and the splendid financial result reflects the highest credit on the part of the Directors, General Managers and Staff. During a year bristling with unprecedented difficulties, not only in trade generally, but owing to the attitude adopted by the Government, it was only after protracted negotiations, which during the long period of discussion must have entailed constant vigilance and patience on the part of the management, that the present satisfactory position was reached. On this latter point I can speak from personal experience and I have no hesitation, gentlemen, in stating that we have cause to congratulate ourselves on the arrangements come to. We are all very pleased to hear the high tribute which the Chairman has paid to the floating staff and we hope as the war horizon is daily becoming more favourable, that those men who have had to leave their homes and families in the Far East, will ere long return to the China Coast and resume their duties under normal conditions. You will, I have no doubt, heartily approve the policy of transferring, as opportunity offers, as much of our silver funds as possible into sterling. The post-war conditions of the Shipping Trade are most uncertain, but what stands out prominently is that it will be necessary to add very considerably to our tonnage in order to recover and maintain our old position, and from an Imperial point of view it is essential that we should increase our tonnage as rapidly as possible so as to prevent our enemies from ever again acquiring so large a share of the shipping trade of this port as they held before the war. The greater portion of the fleet will call for very heavy outlays for extensive renewals and repairs, in addition to which it will no doubt be necessary to replace some of the older steamers by new and modern vessels when opportunity occurs, and I think we may rest assured that the General Managers with their many connections in all parts of the world, will lose no opportunity of procuring new tonnage when and where it can be most advantageously acquired.—With these few remarks, gentlemen, I beg to second the motion put before you by the Chairman.—(Applause.)

The motion was carried. The Hon. Mr. Ho Fook proposed and Mr. Lo Cheung Shiu seconded the confirmation of the appointments as Directors of Mr. G. W. Barton from July 5th to December 23rd and of Mr. H. P. White from December 23rd.—The motion was carried.

The retiring Directors, Sir Paul Chater and Mr. H. P. White, were re-elected on the motion of Mr. Smyth seconded by Mr. G. M. Shaw.

Mr. Alvee proposed that Messrs. A. B. Long and E. M. Williams be elected auditors at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors. Mr. L. H. Lee seconded the motion which was carried.

This concluded the business, the Chairman announcing that dividend warrants would be ready to-morrow.

SOLICITOR SUED.

Suggestion of a "Conspiracy."

In the Summary Court this morning, Cheng Ling, trader, of 31, Wellington Street, first floor, sued Mr. R. O. Faithfull, solicitor, for \$221.49, money received by the defendant for the plaintiff.

Mr. D. J. Lewis appeared for plaintiff, Mr. Faithfull appearing in person.

Mr. Faithfull said he was the defendant in the case and he was going to ask his Lordship to adjourn it for a fortnight for reasons which he would state. He knew his friend would say that he had kept the thing back, and that was so. His reason for seeking a fortnight's adjournment was that he had reason to think that this was a conspiracy between a discharged clerk of his and the plaintiff. \$190 of this money was paid by him, on the authority of this clerk of his, to release a man from arrest, Plaintiff in this case was then in Macao, his business being introduced to him (Mr. Faithfull) by the clerk referred to. Money was undoubtedly lying in his (Mr. Faithfull's) office for the plaintiff, but, as he had stated, most of it had been paid out at plaintiff's request, conveyed through the clerk. Subsequently however he (Mr. Faithfull) had discharged this clerk, who had placed himself in communication with plaintiff at Macao.

His Lordship:—What do you want me to do?

Mr. Faithfull:—I want your Lordship to put the case over for a fortnight. I want to get hold of a material witness to prove that this money was paid out by me. They want me to pay it out again.

His Lordship:—Is the witness in the Colony?

Mr. Faithfull:—Yes. He is the man for whose release the money was paid.

Mr. Lewis objected to a fortnight, stating that he had kept the matter back two months on Mr. Faithfull's promise to pay.

Mr. Faithfull:—I never promised to pay. I said I supposed I would have to pay.

Mr. Lewis said that without that promise he would have put the matter through long ago.

His Lordship granted a week's adjournment.

LAWN TENNIS.

Ladies' Championship Singles.

The draw for the Ladies' Open Championship of the Colony has resulted as follows:—

Mrs. Stark, L.R.O., bye.

Mrs. Robinson, U.S.R.O., v. Mrs. Neave, Wigwam.

Mrs. Joseph Taylor, L.R.O., v. Mrs. Bevington, L.R.O.

Mrs. Digby, L.R.O., v. Mrs. Armstrong, L.R.O.

Mrs. Robertson, U.S.R.O., v. Mrs. Mackintosh, Peak Club.

Mrs. B. Jennings, Queens May.

Miss L. Scott, Takoo.

Mrs. Miller, Wigwam, v. Mrs. Brown.

Miss Wise, U.S.R.O., bye.

The first round has to be completed by November 16, and the second round by the November 27.

LADY MAY'S ROSE FUND.

List No. 19.

Already acknowledged \$9,547.16

Mrs. Akbar (Sale of silk and crochets)

table cover) 20.00

Total ... \$9,567.16

Traffic Prosecutions.

At the Police Court to-day, Inspector Gaird prosecuted thirty-four chair and rickshaw coolies (fourteen from the Peak) for various offences, mostly for being improperly dressed. Fines of \$4 each were imposed.

be elected auditors at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors. Mr. L. H. Lee seconded the motion which was carried.

This concluded the business, the Chairman announcing that dividend warrants would be ready to-morrow.

Mr. Alvee proposed that Messrs. A. B. Long and E. M. Williams

TO-DAY'S TRIBUNAL.

This Afternoon's Decisions.

The General Military Service Tribunal sat this afternoon, His Honour Sir Wm. Rees Davies (Chief Justice) presiding over a full attendance of the members.

Mr. A. H. Compton.

The first case disposed of was that of Mr. A. H. Compton, of Messrs. David Sassoon and Co., Ltd.

Addressing Mr. Compton, the Chairman said that he had received a letter from his employers stating that owing to Mr. Shellim's leaving the Colony it was necessary that he should be granted total exemption, and so under the present circumstances the Tribunal acceded to the request.

Mr. F. W. Gibbins.

The next case was that of Mr. F. W. Gibbins, of Messrs. Wilkinson, Heywood and Clarke, Ltd.

Addressing Mr. Gibbins, the Chairman said that he came up before the Tribunal on July 5, and he was at that time granted three months' exemption. He again appeared before the Tribunal on October 7 and was granted a further month's exemption. On October 22 the Tribunal received a letter from Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist on behalf of the firm, putting forward new matter for the granting of total exemption.

Mr. Daniels, who appeared on behalf of the firm, said that if Mr. Gibbins were called for services it will injure British trades interests in the Far East.

He (Mr. Daniels) was in charge of the Shanghai office and he had to visit the branches. He could not possibly work the two branches. The Americans and Japanese had come into the field and it was especially important that Mr. Gibbins be retained.

Major Morgan still claimed non-exemption.

After some consideration the Chairman said that the Tribunal had decided that Mr. Gibbins should be enrolled.

Mr. M. M. Maas.

The Tribunal then considered the case of Mr. M. M. Maas, of the Asiatic Petroleum Company.

Addressing Mr. Maas, the Chairman said that at the last meeting he was granted temporary exemption so as to enable the Company to find a substitute. He was in charge of the bye-products department, which deals with wax, liquid fuel and other by-products.

Mr. Bell, appearing on behalf of the firm, said Mr. Maas was the only European in the department. In 1915 when Mr. Maas went away another gentleman took his place, but this gentleman is at present in charge of the Company's branch in Foochow and he was the sole man there. He had also sent wires but they were not able to get any person to substitute Mr. Maas. Mr. Watson had gone through Mr. Jenkins's substitute list, and could not find any man to substitute Mr. Maas. They had written to a man who they thought would be of assistance to the firm, but he had already got another job. If the Tribunal were to enroll Mr. Maas it would seriously affect the Company's position.

Major Morgan claimed non-exemption.

Mr. Bell said that at the Appeal Tribunal it was said that they had a bad organisation. Well, the bad organisation was due to the fact that they had to make changes in the staff so as to allow men to go to fight.

The Chairman said that, short though his experience was on the Tribunal, it was most refreshing to him to hear such high opinion by employers of their employees.—(Laughter.)

After some consideration the Chairman said the Tribunal was of the opinion that no further exemption should be granted.

Other Cases.

In the case of Mr. Dambarton, of the Commercial Union Assurance Co., the decision of the Tribunal was that at the expiration of six months he should appear before the Tribunal and put in any fresh grounds for exemption.

The last case considered was that of Mr. Green, of Messrs. Moller and Co. Ltd.

Mr. Williams, who appeared on behalf of the firm, said that since the last meeting of the Tribunal the work had increased so that they had to take Mr. Green. He himself was an engineer, but he thought at that time he could do the work together with Mr. Lucas, but now it was found impossible. They had four vessels under Government control.

Major Morgan claimed non-exemption.

The decision of the Tribunal was that Mr. Green should be enrolled.

Who has the decisive word in ordering an election is at present a matter of controversy. But it used to be considered imperative that the King in person should prorogue Parliament on the eve of dissolution. And not always has the Sovereign been found willing. When after the defeat of the Reform Bill in 1831, Earl Grey and the Lord Chancellor waited upon William IV. to request him rather hurriedly to dissolve the House, the King bluntly declared that he had no inclination to dismiss a Parliament which had treated him so handsomely in the matter of the Civil List and settled so large an annuity on his consort. When the Lord Chancellor insisted that dissolution was inevitable, William raised all manner of minor difficulties as to who would carry the Sword of State, &c. Earl Grey replied that he had arranged for that. "But," pleaded the King, "the Guards have not been ordered out." Earl Grey replied that they had, whereupon the King, whose sole prerogative it was to order the Guards, cried "Treason, high treason!" The Ministers acknowledged their guilt, but stood their ground, and at length bore the unwilling King to Westminster.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

To the student of history the fate of the Romanoffs and that of the Bourbons presents many points of similarity. The late Tsar and Louis XVI. seems to have many traits in common. Both were devoted husbands and fathers, both seemed incapable of dealing with a crisis, and neither realised that temporising measures were hopeless. Each kept a diary regularly—Nicholas never failed to report the weather, though political movements of deep significance might elude his notice; Louis XVI. kept an account-book in which was entered the extravagances of his Queen. Each monarch had a delicate only son, and each of those sons met his death in some mysterious manner when in the charge of brutal golems. Louis XVI. loved carpentering, clock making and repairing; Nicholas enjoyed gardening. Our Charles I. (another unhappy monarch) was a connoisseur of the arts and a fine judge of paintings. These were kings who were never intended to wear crowns—by nature and aptitude. But where Marie Antoinette had Count Fersen and Mrs. Atkyns to spend life and fortune in vain endeavours to save her from her fate, we hear of no one with a similar devotion to the Tsarina.

Who has the decisive word in ordering an election is at present a matter of controversy. But it used to be considered imperative that the King in person should prorogue Parliament on the eve of dissolution. And not always has the Sovereign been found willing. When after the defeat of the Reform Bill in 1831, Earl Grey and the Lord Chancellor waited upon William IV. to request him rather hurriedly to dissolve the House, the King bluntly declared that he had no inclination to dismiss a Parliament which had treated him so handsomely in the matter of the Civil List and settled so large an annuity on his consort. When the Lord Chancellor insisted that dissolution was inevitable, William raised all manner of minor difficulties as to who would carry the Sword of State, &c. Earl Grey replied that he had arranged for that. "But," pleaded the King, "the Guards have not been ordered out." Earl Grey replied that they had, whereupon the King, whose sole prerogative it was to order the Guards, cried "Treason, high treason!" The Ministers acknowledged their guilt, but stood their ground, and at length bore the unwilling King to Westminster.

Wharf Mishap.

A Chinese male, aged 26, has been sent to the Government Civil Hospital suffering from a wound on the side of the head, caused by a hatch, accidentally lifted out of its socket, falling on him in No. 4 hold of the s.s. Nawab, while working on cargo at the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co's wharf.

Addressing Mr. Green, the Chairman said that his case came very shortly to the authorities' notice. He presumed that he had just come to the Colony. He had received a letter from Messrs. Moller and Co. stating that Mr. Green was chief engineer of a ship which was now under Government control but he had been transferred to the office as Marine Superintendent, and the Tribunal had granted exemption to Mr. Lucas and Mr. Williamson on the ground of essential interests of the Colony as well as Imperial interests. They had also put forward this ground for the exemption of Mr. Green.

Mr. Williams, who appeared on behalf of the firm, said that since the last meeting of the Tribunal the work had increased so that they had to take Mr. Green. He himself was an engineer, but he thought at that time he could do the work together with Mr. Lucas, but now it was found impossible. They had four vessels under Government control.

Major Morgan claimed non-exemption.

The decision of the Tribunal was that Mr. Green should be enrolled.

WAR AND THE
WORKHOUSE.A Change in the Spirit
of the Poor.

There are no civilians in this war. It might have been thought that the cataclysm would have confined its greed to the young and strong, who best can serve it; yet, because there are no civilians now, war has searched out every backwater, even those of the Poor-law where the aged, the sick, the degraded, lay deep-runken as pebbles. The war, with its demand for labour, has done more to break down the hateful system than the last ten years of good intentions; those in January 1914 some 248,000 men, women and children were practically interned, but by 1917 they had shrunk to 215,000; the more respectable class, including widows with young children, often compelled to take outdoor relief, had fallen from 389,000 to 222,000; as for the casual, he was almost blotted out; within two and a half years of the outbreak of war two-thirds of the casuals had disappeared; the casual had, for a time, ceased to be a problem.

Pauperism in General. Looking at pauperism in general, taking into account everything that should weigh the scale the other way, the increase of lunacy, sickness due to anxiety and overwork, children forsaken by the evil, left behind by the dead, we have lost one pauper out of every three, so that at last beds are unoccupied, while that lonely creature, past vagrant, past piteous, the sleeper-out, affords no more to the police the cruel and monotonous task of moving him on. The decrease is not primarily due to military service; among the frequenters of the casual wards a certain number of able-bodied men have been enlisted, but the workhouses had no young male population to yield up. Their patrons were old and sick, some of them passing under shelter the hard years between 65 and 70, when the old age pension would in special cases only release them to return to their families. It is to a certain extent among these, and much more among those who took from the guardians a few shillings a week, that national service has found recruits.

National service broke into the Poor-law at the end of 1914, so that the workrooms opened to meet distress began to close, until the last of them disappeared in September 1915. For the women were entering munition factories, replacing men in every trade; some have been successful, but their story is hard to trace, because they naturally hide the past they think shameful. Still, two are before me, both interesting. In one case a plumber, too old at 65, left the workhouse, and is now foreman to a well-to-do builder, earning 57s. 6d. a week... and, what is more important, he looks 55, and talks of dyeing his hair; he is almost young. The other is a widow, who left the House with her two children, entered a munition works, placing her children in a Government day nursery; here is still a struggle, and she is free, has recovered hope.

One cannot, of course, expect that peace will leave such redemptions undisturbed. Indeed, it is likely to strain the Poor-law by throwing upon it those whom reconstruction cannot absorb, notably the unpensioned sick and those who have lived on the nerves until they collapse; moreover, many of the emancipated will find no equivalent for war work or will be worried in the struggle with the strong young returning soldiers. But there will be a mental effect. Mrs. H. B. Irving, a guardian of St. Pancras, assures me that there is a change in the spirit of the poor. According to her, the war has placed them because it has interested them; it has galvanised into action some who thought themselves stork; also they who never felt well have for several years lived more actively; have found a suitable tonic in the deeper excitement of battle and even in air raids.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Notable Words by the French
Premier.

During a meeting of the executive committee of the Radical party in Paris, at which a resolution was passed in favour of a League of Nations, M. Ferdinand Buisson, one of the leading and most ardent advocates of the league, related a recent conversation between M. Leon Bourgeois, the French protagonist of the scheme, and M. Clemenceau.

M. Bourgeois had gently reproached the French Premier with having spoken somewhat slightly of the League of Nations in one of his speeches. "Don't you see," he said, "what weight your words may have?"

"You must not," replied M. Clemenceau, "take too literally one of my remarks, to which I did not attach the importance which other people have given to it. Because I made a humorous allusion one day about it, you must not believe I am an enemy of the League of Nations. That would be a grave error."

Then, showing M. Bourgeois a document on his desk, the Premier added: "Here are the resolutions taken at a recent Allied Conference. Read the last lines. After the phrase 'to put an end to violence, you will notice that there are a few words in my own handwriting, added at my request. These words are: 'And to introduce the regime of organised law for the world.'"

"The regime of organised law for the world," concluded M. Clemenceau, "is the League of Nations. You can see from my written words whether I am an adversary of the league or not."

unpleasant as they may be they afford scope for conversation; indeed, as one old lady put it, "they make variety." This is, perhaps, a hideous idea, but it is a more hideous idea that our social condition should have made poor lives so flat that fire and death come as a pleasant excitement.

The Workhouse Must go. Thus in M. Irving's view and in mine, the people may be preparing the long deferred break-up of the Poor-law they detest; a taste of freedom makes an appetite for rights. The recent Local Government Board Committee in a bitter commentary upon a law which ten authorities strive to work, while they elbow each other, where guardians, pensioners, insurance, health boards tumble over each other's by-laws. A more bitter commentary is Mrs. Irving's picture of the workhouse wards of old women who love their own individual teapot, seated at a bare table before a can and large quantities without room for small possessions, of the scutty sick in the infirmary wards crowded by the neighbourhood of crying children herded among the mentally deficient and the senile. The workhouse of to day is not the old bastille, but much more horrible horror clings yet to its walls.

As soon as may be the workhouse must go. The time has come to divide into classes those we must relieve, to send the old men and women to some pleasant place such as the Broga beguine, where they may find homes, not goals, and gossip to the end; to draft the able-bodied into colonies which I should like to see administered by the trade unions so that the poor men may escape the patronage of the bourgeois; to drive out the nursing mothers into cottage homes, where their children may thrive; to reorganise the old infirmaries, to do away with mingled ages and mixed diseases; to give each class, each creature if we can, a different road to a broader freedom, just because no two creatures are quite alike. The first steps have been taken; already the relieving officers, not necessarily cruel, but generally crude, are being replaced by women; ten years hence not one relieving officer should be a man. At St. Pancras, where once 93 female inmates worked in the laundry, only 32 can now be found, and there are nearly all over 60; it is for us to maintain that happy state where a workhouse is selling for labour and calls in vain.—W. L. George in the Daily Chronicle.

THE FIRST PATROL.

How the Service was
inaugurated.

When war broke out one of the first dangers which threatened British shipping was the menace of enemy mines. It became necessary to establish a continuous patrol of our home waters, in order that a clear route might be maintained for seaborne traffic. In this national emergency a call was made upon the East Coast fishermen, who were mobilised and formed the first Auxiliary Patrol. The mobilisation was ordered at about noon on the 8th August, 1914, and by 8 p.m. two days later it had been completed, the channel had been patrolled and reported clear of mines. No man's achievement this when the difficulties of the undertaking are considered.

The first Auxiliary Patrol consisted of 50 steam drifters manned by 500 fishermen. There was not a Service rating amongst them, and very few of the men had been under any kind of discipline in their lives. When their duties, which included mine-sweeping and the examination of suspicious craft, had been briefly explained to them by a naval officer at the local base, they proceeded to sea without any further preliminaries.

Although enrolled as members of the Royal Naval Reserve Trawler Section, there had been no time to obtain proper uniforms, and at first the patrol presented a curious patchwork appearance. A naval badge sewn upon a plain clothes cap and a couple of R.N.R. esp ribbons sewn round the sleeves of a plain clothes coat, formed the nearest approach to uniform which the skippers could muster before going to sea while their crews were equally "sketchy" as regards regulation kit. It was a skipper of this patrol, in his fancy uniform, who boarded a 10,000-ton vessel which he considered suspicious, demanded and obtained their papers; examined them, and passed her. Another, observing a foreign ship throw overboard what appeared to be mines passed the word along so that before she had proceeded very far she was examined. True, she turned out to be a harmless Russian, but these incidents show how thorough was the spirit in which the new patrol worked. Although their uniform left something to be desired, these men had quickly grasped the main principles of their duty, and right well did they acquit themselves. Without a gun, a rifle, or even a revolver on board, the skippers took their vessels to sea and carried out the orders received faithfully and well. The first Auxiliary Patrol was in existence for three months, and during the period, such was the discipline, the keenness, and the efficiency displayed that there were only two cases for punishment out of the 500 men who had been mobilised. At the end of three months the drifters were armed and sent in batches to different parts of the world, their former duties being carried out by other units.

One anecdote of the First Patrol may be recalled. Upon a certain occasion the skipper of a drifter fell in with one of our destroyers, who ordered him to anchor. The skipper replied that he had received definite orders to remain under way at eight knots by day and night until his return to port. The destroyer's reply was to train his gun on the drifter and repeat his order to anchor. In explaining what happened afterwards to his senior officer at the base, the skipper said that it seemed to him he had two masters, one a hundred miles away and the other who was going to sink him unless he obeyed. "So I disobeyed you, sir, and let go the anchor," he concluded.

Record Prices for Land. High prices now being paid for agricultural holdings was further exemplified by the bidding at a farm sale at Chesham, Cheshire. The farm of 41 acres, rented at £100 per year, was sold, after keen competition, for £4,800, by far the highest price yet paid in this part of Cheshire.

THEATRE ROYAL

"OUR DAY"

PERFORMANCES

"THE BARTON MYSTERY"

A spoofic fantasy in 4 parts by Walter Hackett

THURSDAY, 7th November

AND

SATURDAY, 9th November

AT 9.15 P.M.

There will be no private booking or sale of advance tickets, so that it will rest entirely with the public to secure good seats.

For the FIRST NIGHT prices will be as follows:—

Centre Block, Dress Circle	\$10.00
Remaining	\$ 5.00
Stalls	\$ 5.00
Pit and Gallery	\$ 2.00

and for the SECOND NIGHT:—

Dress Circle	\$ 5.00
Stalls	\$ 4.00
Pit and Gallery	\$ 2.00

Soldiers and Sailors in uniform half prices on Second Night.

BOOKING AT MOUTRIE'S



WEE WILLIE:—For the life of me I canna' see the point in that poster.

WEE DONALD:—Hae a guess, wee.

WEE WILLIE:—Is it that that dour chiel blawin' the pipes is the only Highlander left in the g'wan' he's stravin' the wee German dog?

WEE WILLIE:—No bad man, but the real point—the real point is in the thistle.

HONGKONG ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY

WAR BOND DRAWING

31st December, 1918.

Tickets on Sale at all Banks, Hotels, Clubs & Stores.

EXCHANGE.

SELLING.

T/T	3/3 1/2
Demand	3/3 1/2
30 d/s	3/4 1/16
60 d/s	3/4 3/16
4 m/s	3/4 3/16
T/T Shanghai	Nom.
T/T Singapore	14 1/2
T/T Japan	14 1/2
T/T India	Nom.
Demand India	Nom.
T/T San Francisco	78 1/2
co & New York	183 1/2
T/T Java	N.m.
T/T Manila	43 1/2
T/T France	43 1/2
Demand Paris	43 1/2

BUYING.

4 m/s. L/C	3/5 1/2
4 m/s. B/P	3/5 1/2
6 m/s. L/C	2/5 1/2
30 d/s. Sydney and Melbourne	3/5 1/2
30 d/s. San Francisco	80 1/2
co & New York	Nom.
4 m/s. Manila	45 1/2
4 m/s. France	45 1/2
6 m/s. France	45 1/2
Demand Germany	—

Demand, New York. 78 1/2
T/T Bombay
Demand, Bombay Nom.
T/T Calcutta
Demand, Calcutta Nom.
Demand, Manila 158 1/2
Demand, Singapore. 142 1/2
On Haiphong 1 1/2 % prem.
On Saigon 1 % prem.
On Bangkok 46 1/2
Sovereign 5.93 Nom.
Gold leaf per oz 44
Bar Silver, per oz 49 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS

DISCOUNT PER 100:
H'kong 50 cts sub. par.
" 10 " 1/2 % prem.
" 5 " 3/4 % prem.
Canton 3/4 %.

Newspapers a Blessing in Camp. As I have been daily a significant part of the war, other than his duty, away from his papers in the camp. The National Service representative said he had had experience of camp life, and must say that newspapers were a blessing.

BANKS

BANK OF CANTON,
LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, HONGKONG

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and
General Banking Business
Transacted.INTEREST ON FIXED
DEPOSITS:

For 3 Months 3% per annum.

For 6 Months 4% per annum.

For 12 Months 4 1/2% per annum.

LOOK POON SHAN,

Chief Manager.

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE
DE CHINE.

Subscribed Capital—Francs 45,000,000.
Paid up 22,500,000.
(1/2 of the Capital, in Francs 15,000,000
subscribed by the Government of the
Chinese Republic.)

Chairman of the
Board of Directors: Andre Berthelot.
General Manager: A. J. Parnotte.

HEAD OFFICE:
74, Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS.

BRANCHES:

SHANGHAI HONGKONG

SAIGON HAIKONG

YUNNANFOU

BANKERS:

In FRANCE: Société Générale pour
l'Avancement le Développement du Com-
merce et de l'Industrie en France.LONDON: London County West-
minster & Par's Bank Ltd. London

Joint City & Midland Bank Ltd.

NEW YORK: Redmond & Co.

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centres of the world.

Telegraphic Address: CHIBANKIND.

Interest on Current Accounts and
Fixed Deposits in Local Currency and in
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Exchange business transacted.

Special facilities for French exchange.

M. ROBERT DE JOURNEL
Manager.HONGKONG BRANCH:
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55, Charter Road. Tel. 2440.

NOTICES.

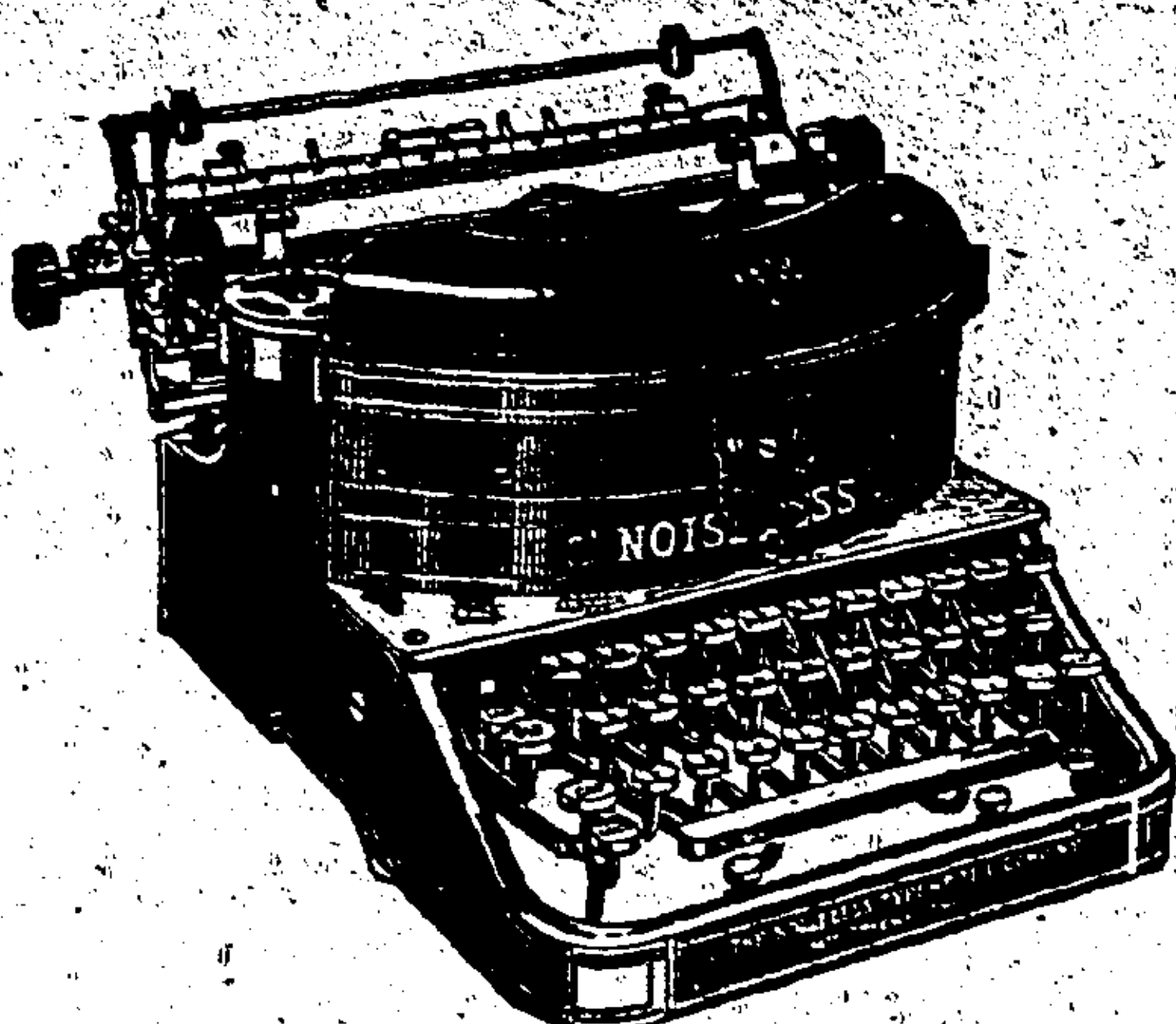
PEAK TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

1.00 a.m. to 2.00 a.m.	Every 15 min.
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The "Noiseless" Typewriter



A TYPEWRITER WITH ALL THE
IMPROVEMENTS OF AN UP-TO-DATE
MACHINE AND IN ADDITION IS
ABSOLUTELY NOISELESS

CONCENTRATION OF THOUGHT IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS IN BUSINESS

We are in a position to save your nerves and ease your business strains by eliminating the most abstracting noise of an up-to-date office.

Up to now every business man or woman has had to work under the handicap of the perpetual din and clatter of the noisy typewriter and it has been necessary to drive the stenographers into the far corners of the office and to waste time in calling them over to take notes. You could not have your typist next to your desk without hearing a continuous interrupting noise.

The Noiseless Typewriter offers a positive solution of this problem. No longer is it necessary to drive stenographers into the far corners of the office. They may be placed where they can be used to the best advantage. Their machines can be operated next to any business man's desk without interfering with the use of the telephone or disturbing conferences. Their work is not interrupted in order that the executive may have momentary peace.

THE "NOISELESS" ACTUALLY WORKS WITHOUT A NOISE

Call or ask us to come and Demonstrate this fact to YOU. It will be worth your trouble to see this wonderful machine that will do FIRST CLASS WORK IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE.

Sole Agent for:
THE NOISELESS TYPEWRITER CO.

THORESEN & CO.,

No. 3, Queen's Building.

Telephone 450.

The "Three Castles" Virginia Cigarettes

MAGNUMS

It's the same sweet
"Three Castles"
Virginia Cigarette you
have always smoked,
made in a larger size.

Ask for the
Magnum size



"The larger
Cigarette with
a Pedigree"

This advertisement is issued by the British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd.

ENTERTAINMENTS

HARMSTON'S CIRCUS

KOWLOON.

(Near New Post Office)
LAST FEW NIGHTS OF THIS GREAT SHOW
IN HONGKONG.
TO-NIGHT. at 9 P.M. TO-NIGHT.

OUR NEW PROGRAMME.
DON'T MISS IT.

LAST MATINEE TO-MORROW SATURDAY, November, 2nd.

Doors Open 3 p.m. Commence 4 p.m.
When Children will be admitted at half price to all parts of the Circus.

See our Beautiful Arab Stallions & Performing Ponies.

Our Menagerie consists of

ELEPHANTS, LIONS, TIGERS, BEARS, LEOPARDS, HYENAS, EMU, ZEBRA,
WALLABY, BARBONS, MONKEYS, DOGS, ETC.

POPULAR PRICES OF ADMISSION
FULL BOX, SIX SEATS ... \$15.00 SECOND CHAIRS ... \$1.50
SINGLE SEATS, BOX ... 3.00 STALLS ... 1.00
FIRST CHAIRS ... 2.00 GALLERY ... 50 cts
Soldiers and Sailors in uniform. Half Price to the \$1 and \$1.50 seats.

Booking at ROBINSON PIANO CO., Daily.
W. Harmston. C. M. Bruce. R. Alton & W. Symons,
Proprietor. Band Master. Agents.

THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS

AT MING YUEN GARDEN, NORTH POINT.
OPENING NIGHT SATURDAY, 2nd November.

Commencing at 9 p.m.
COME & SEE OUR STAR ARTISTES.

MATINEES: WEDNESDAY and SATURDAYS.
Doors Open 3 p.m. Commencing 4 p.m.

POPULAR PRICES OF ADMISSION.
FULL BOX ... \$15.00 SECOND CHAIRS ... \$1.50
SINGLE BOX SEATS ... \$3.00 GALLERY ... 50 cts.
FIRST CHAIRS ... \$2.00 SOLDIERS & SAILORS half price.

Every adult ticket purchased admits in addition one child free of charge.

BOOKING AT ROBINSON PIANO CO.

MOTOR RIDES (FREE).—The purchasers of Full Box Bookings will be conveyed free of charge from Robinson's by Motor Car, and return each night at 8.30 p.m.

TEAM RIDES (FREE).—Tramcar fare to and from the Circus will be deducted from the price of admission on presentation of tram ticket.

FROM 7.00 TO 9.00 P.M.
GRAND DISPLAY OF DUTCH FIREWORKS (Free.)
OPEN-AIR CINEMA (During the interval) (Free.)

VICTORIA THEATRE.

October 31st, November 1st and 2nd.
9.15 P.M. PERFORMANCE.

THE FINAL EPISODE OF

"THE HIDDEN HAND"

THE GREAT NEW 2-PART COMEDY

"MAX IN A TAXI"

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Booking at ANDERSON'S.

MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

Sale of Work in Aid of Charities for Children.

To be held in the Grounds of Government House by kind permission of H.E. the Officer Administering the Government.

TO-MORROW

(SATURDAY), 2nd NOVEMBER,
at 2.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Only Entrance at the Garden Gate in Upper Albert Road.

Price of admission:—Adults 20 cts., Children 10 cts.

All Members and Associates Wearing M.C.L. Badges Free.

Children's Dance and Play at 5.30 p.m.

Gold Fish Stall. Sweet Stall.

H.M.S. "Tamar" Dip.

Unfaded attractive articles at various stalls for children and grown-ups.

WIZARDS CAVE. RAZ-EL-DAZ.
THE PERSIAN WIZARD.

Prices moderate.

No child.

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